

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14.(Original) A purified polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a Na⁺/H⁺ transporter polypeptide which when expressed confers increased salt tolerance in a plant; wherein the transporter polypeptide comprises: i. an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2; and ii. fewer than 522 amino acids.

15.(Currently Amended) The polynucleotide of claim 14 wherein the nucleotide sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID No. 9 NOS:5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15.

16.(Cancelled)

17.(Original) The polynucleotide according to claim 10, wherein the nucleotide sequence is SEQ in NO:3.

18-20. (Cancelled)